Recommendations for public library system contracts

As the PLSR process moves forward, public library systems are thinking about the long-term results of the process as they consider contracts for services and space. The Steering Committee has prepared this information in response to questions from systems about entering into contracts.

Recommendations from the service workgroups will be provided to the Steering Committee in March 2018. After that time, the Steering Committee will complete a process to ensure community buy-in for those recommendations and to determine recommendations for governance, administration, funding, and a holistic implementation plan for the proposed services. The Steering Committee hopes to complete this work and to provide final recommendations to DPI by XXX. DPI will then take the next steps to review, approve, and implement the recommendations. It is impossible at this phase of the process to know what steps will be needed once recommendations are given to DPI.

The Steering Committee understands the challenge for systems of moving forward in absence of a concrete time frame. While the Steering Committee cannot predict when the process will be completed, there are a couple of things that can be definitively stated:

*There will be changes*
There is unprecedented commitment from DPI, the Steering Committee, the workgroups, and many others in the library community for change to occur as a result of this process. Systems should anticipate that significant change will be recommended and implemented as a result of this process.

*Change will not happen overnight*
The extent of potential changes to system services and systems themselves is mammoth. It will be impossible for all of the changes to happen overnight. The Steering Committee will be developing a proposed implementation plan that will take into account the large number of changes that may need to happen, and provide a logical and phased-in approach to these changes. Part of the implementation plan will take into account existing contracts, leases, and other obligations of the systems, though systems are strongly discouraged from signing additional long-term contracts (longer than X years) that do not have clauses that allow for release from the contracts.

*How to proceed*
Given the economic and political climate and what has happened to systems in other states, it is recommended that systems entering into contracts that allow for discontinuation of the contract in certain circumstances:

1. The system no longer provides the service, due to a change that is implemented at the state level.
2. The system is no longer funded at the same level.
3. The system no longer exists.

DPI has provided the following contract language as suggested language for these types of terms:

{FILL IN INFO FROM DPI}